

United States District Court

For the Northern District of California

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7 United States of America,
8 Plaintiff,
9 v.
10 Steven Rodriguez,
11 Defendant.

12 NO. CR-08-00156 JW
13 **ORDER FOLLOWING FINAL
14 PRETRIAL CONFERENCE**

15 _____/
16 On July 24, 2008, the Court conducted a Final Pretrial Conference. Assistant United States
17 Attorneys Jeff Schenk and Richard Cheng appeared on behalf of the government. Assistant Federal
18 Public Defender Cynthia Lie appeared on behalf of Defendant Rodriguez, who appeared in custody.
19 Pursuant to the conference the Court issues the following order:

- 20 (1) For the reasons stated on the record, the Government and Defendant's Motions in
21 Limine¹ with respect to pre-trial and recorded statements are GRANTED in part and
22 DENIED in part as follows:
23 (a) To the extent the government seeks to introduce the audio recording of
24 Defendant's statement to law enforcement officers on the day of the arrest, the
25 Court has taken under submission of the government's proposed redactions

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1 (See Docket Item Nos. 24, 25, 26.)

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1 and will indicate whether additional materials must be admitted for
 2 completeness.

- 3 (b) To the extent the government seeks to introduce evidence of Defendant's
 4 prior convictions in the event that Defendant elects to testify, the government
 5 may not introduce evidence of prior convictions for spousal abuse without
 6 prior Court order.
 7 (c) Evidence of Defendant's association with street gangs is excluded as
 8 unopposed by the government.
 9 (2) For the reasons stated on the record, the Government's Motions in Limine to
 10 Preclude the Defense of Justification or Necessity is reserved pending the evidence
 11 developed at trial. The Government's Motion to Preclude References to Government
 12 Charging Decisions are DENIED as unnecessary in that the Court presumes the
 13 parties will comply with the Rules of Evidence in their presentations.

14 Further, the parties shall comply with the following instructions:

15 **A. Trial Schedule**

Jury Selection	August 4, 2008 at 1 p.m.
Sessions 1 & 2	August 5, 2008, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 4p.m.
Sessions 3 & 4	August 6, 2008, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Sessions 5 & 6	August 7, 2008, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Sessions 7	August 8, 2008, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Argue & Submit	August 8, 2008, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Jury Deliberations	August 11 - 13, 2008

21 **B. Jury Selection**

- 22 1. The entire panel will be sworn. The Court will inform the panel of the nature and
 23 duration of the case and ask any panel member to identify himself or herself if, due to the nature or
 24 duration of the case or any physical or personal problem, service would impose an extreme hardship.
 25 The Court will examine panel members claiming hardship and issue appropriate excuses.

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1 2. The Clerk will call the names of all prospective jurors. Fourteen jurors will be seated in
2 the jury box, and the others will be seated in the courtroom in the order in which their names are
3 called.

4 3. The Court will conduct voir dire of the prospective jurors, including any Court-approved
5 questions which have been previously submitted by counsel.

6 4. After the Court has completed voir dire, counsel may be permitted to conduct
7 supplemental voir dire for a time period specified by the Court. After the completion of voir dire,
8 the Court will inquire whether the panel is passed for cause. If a party objects to the qualifications
9 of any seated juror, the party shall indicate that the panel is not passed and ask for permission to
10 approach the bench to inform the Court. A party shall not identify the juror or state the ground for
11 its challenge on the record with the panel present unless permission to state the challenge has been
12 granted by the Court. At the bench conference the Court will determine a procedure for hearing the
13 challenge. If a party does not respond to the Court's inquiry whether the panel is passed for cause,
14 the jury panel is deemed passed for cause, and the parties will be allowed to exercise any
15 peremptory challenges.

16 5. Normally, parties will be allowed to responsively indicate any peremptory challenges. In
17 some cases, the Court may order that any peremptory challenges be exercised simultaneously. In
18 multiple party cases, counsel are directed to elect and designate one of their number as "lead"
19 counsel for the purpose of exercising joint challenges. The first 12 prospective jurors remaining
20 after exercise of challenges shall be seated as jurors. The next two remaining prospective jurors
21 shall be the first and second alternate jurors, respectively.

22 6. Before the remaining panel is excused, the Court will ask counsel if there is any legal
23 cause why the panel should not be sworn as the jury for the case. If a party should indicate a desire
24 to state legal cause, the Court will determine a time and procedure for ruling on those objections.
25 Any objections not stated are deemed waived.

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C. Exhibits

7. On **Friday, August 1, 2008, by 3 p.m.**, each party shall lodge with Chambers an exhibit binder for each witness, which shall contain all exhibits which the party contemplates offering into evidence through the witness. Any party objecting to an exhibit shall insert a page in front of the exhibit which identifies the party making the objection and the legal ground for the objection. Although an exhibit to which an objection has been made may be shown to the witness, it shall not be displayed to the trier of fact unless the objection is overruled and the exhibit is received into evidence.

8. If the case involves only a few exhibits, instead of witness exhibit binders, the parties may include all exhibits in a single notebook.

9. Unless otherwise ordered, all exhibits shall be in a format compatible with either the video or digital evidence presentation system utilized by the Court for display after it is received into evidence.

10. The parties are encouraged to stipulate to the admission into evidence of all exhibits. If the parties stipulate to admissibility, the parties shall indicate, "I am going to show you Exhibit ___, which is in evidence by stipulation." The exhibit may be shown to the witness and the trier of fact without being formally offered into evidence.

11. The proffering party shall retain custody of all exhibits, schedules, summaries, diagrams or charts to be used at the trial.

D. Trial Procedure

12. In opening statements and in arguments to the jury, counsel shall not express personal knowledge or opinion concerning any matter in issue; and shall not suggest to the jury directly or indirectly, that it may or should request transcripts or the reading of any testimony by the reporter.

13. Counsel must question witness from the podium, using the microphone. Without requesting permission, counsel may approach witnesses for any proper purposes.

14. Address all remarks to the Court, not to opposing counsel.

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1 15. Refer to all persons, including witnesses, other counsel and the parties by their surnames
2 and not be their first or given names.

3 16. No demonstrative exhibits, charts, diagrams or enlargements shall be placed within sight
4 of the jury unless previously disclosed to opposing counsel.

5 17. In examining a witness, counsel shall not repeat or echo the answer given by the witness.

6 18. Counsel must stand when making an objection. Arguments on points of law or
7 evidentiary matters shall be made out of the presence of the jury. Thus, when objections or
8 responses to objections are made, only the legal basis of the objections and responses may be stated.

9 19. Offers of, or requests for, a stipulation should be made privately, not within the hearing
10 of the jury.

11 20. Conferences at the bench or sidebar are not favored by the Court. Counsel are
12 responsible for bringing any matters which require hearing out of the presence of the jury to the
13 attention of the Court during a time when the jury is not in session. Any sidebar conferences which
14 are allowed will be off the record. If any counsel wishes to place matters on the record, he or she
15 may so request, and the Court will make a responsive order.

16 21. Counsel have full responsibility to arrange for the appearance of witnesses during the
17 presentation of their case so as to eliminate delay caused by waiting for witnesses who have been
18 placed on call by counsel.

19 22. Unless an agreement to the contrary is entered into by opposing counsel, all nonparty or
20 nonexpert witnesses will be excluded from the courtroom when not testifying. Unless, counsel
21 indicates that he or she wishes the witness to remain subject to being recalled, when a witness has
22 completed his or her testimony, the witness is excused. Any witness who has been excused from
23 further testimony may remain as a spectator. It will be the responsibility of counsel to make an
24 announcement at the time the witness steps down that he or she should remain in the environs of the
25 Court for a reasonable time to permit such counsel an opportunity to secure and serve a subpoena
26 upon the witness and assume responsibility for his or her per diem and other expenses as provided
27 by governing rule or statute.

1 23. Counsel shall admonish all persons at counsel table that gestures, facial expressions,
2 audible comments, or the like, as manifestations of approval or disapproval during the testimony of
3 witnesses, or at any other time, are prohibited.

4 24. Counsel should never, in the presence of the jury, ask the Court reporter to mark or flag
5 a witness's answer to a particular question. Instead, make a note of the time and subject matter of
6 the testimony you want marked, and inform the reporter unobtrusively at the next recess. This is to
7 avoid the use of "marking" as a device for attracting the jury's attention to certain testimony.

8 25. When there are multiple defense counsel, they are directed to confer and designate to the
9 Court the sequence in which they wish to be recognized during trial for purposes of presenting
10 opening statements and conducting cross-examination of witnesses. If one counsel conducts the
11 direct examination of a witness, that same counsel must make objections when the witness is cross-
12 examined. Counsel who will conduct the cross-examination should object while the witness is on
13 direct.

14 26. From and after the moment the case is called for trial, any objection, motion or other
15 application for relief made by any defense counsel, orally or in writing, shall be deemed to be
16 adopted and joined in by every other defendant, without announcement by counsel to that effect, and
17 the rulings of the Court shall be deemed applicable to each defendant unless otherwise stated at the
18 time the ruling is made. Accordingly, it shall be regarded as unnecessary and improper for counsel
19 to rise to "join in" an objection or motion. Rather, counsel should rise to be heard only for the
20 purpose of expressly opting out of an objection or motion if that is his or her position.

21 27. Counsel are directed to deliver to opposing counsel at the end of each trial day (if not
22 earlier) a list of witnesses counsel anticipates calling the next trial day.

23 28. Counsel calling a witness who is neither a client nor an expert witness of the party
24 should have no discussions with that witness concerning the case or any aspect of his or her
25 testimony after the witness has been tendered for cross-examination and until such time as the
26 witness has been tendered back for redirect examination. At all other times, within the bounds of
27 governing ethics and the law, counsel may engage in discussions with witnesses during trial.

1 29. Counsel are directed to schedule any matters to be heard out of the presence of the jury
2 at a time other than that set for the presentation of evidence. Any time taken away from presentation
3 of evidence to the trier of fact due to, for example, lengthy legal motions made during the time
4 allocated to the presentation of evidence, or delays in the commencement of proceedings due to
5 circumstances within the control of counsel, will be deducted from the time allocated for the
6 presentation of evidence. Upon timely application based upon good cause, the Court may relieve a
7 party of its stipulation to the agreed schedule.

8 30. It is the practice of the Court periodically to inform counsel of the Court's record of how
9 much time each side has remaining for the presentation of evidence based upon the stipulated trial
10 schedule.

E. Instructing the Jury

12 31. The Court pre-instructs the jury as to preliminary matters immediately before opening
13 statements, and finally instructs before arguments of counsel. Written instructions are provided the
14 jury upon retiring for deliberation.

F. Jury Deliberations

16 32. Counsel and litigants are not required to remain in the courtroom during jury
17 deliberations; however, it is counsel's responsibility to keep the clerk fully informed as to counsel's
18 whereabouts at all times, including the noon hour. Counsel are expected to return to the courtroom
19 within five minutes after being notified to do so. Failure to be available will be deemed waiver of
20 the right to be present.

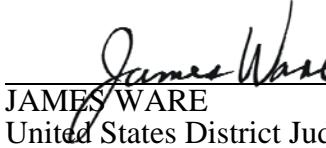
21 33. A deliberating jury will be permitted to take a noon recess or other rest breaks without
22 the necessity of reconvening; and to retire for the evening and resume their deliberations the next
23 morning without reconvening.

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1 **G. Daily Trial Transcript**

2 34. Any counsel desiring daily or expedited transcripts during trial should make
3 immediate arrangements with the court reporter and should inform the Court and other counsel of
4 such intentions.

5 Dated: July 24, 2008

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7 JAMES WARE
United States District Judge

1 **THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT COPIES OF THIS ORDER HAVE BEEN MAILED TO:**

2 Cynthia Chin Young Lie, cynthia_lie@fd.org
3 Jeffrey Benjamin Schenk, jeffrey.b.schenk@usdoj.gov

4 **Dated: July 24, 2008**

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk

5 By: /s/ JW Chambers
6 Elizabeth Garcia
7 Courtroom Deputy